

B) since the gas generation was gradually decreased with an increase of metallic indium mixing in each sample.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

2 1. (Twice Amended) A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising a mixture of a conventional alloyed zinc powder and Bi as an additional metal.

b 2. (Twice Amended) A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising a mixture of a conventional alloyed zinc powder and Bi as an additional metal incorporated in said mixture in an amount of 50 - 1000 ppm by weight based on the amount of said conventional alloyed powder.

h 6. (Twice Amended) A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell of low gas generation comprising a mixture of a powder of Bi and a conventional alloyed zinc powder, said mixture being prepared by dry mixing said metallic powder and said conventional alloyed zinc powder.

7. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising

the step of mixing a conventional alloyed zinc powder with Bi as an additional metal.

B3  
8. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising the step of mixing a conventional alloyed zinc powder with Bi as an additional metal, said additional metal being added in an amount of 50 to 1000 ppm by weight based on the weight of the conventional alloyed zinc powder.

B4  
12. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell of low gas generation comprising the step of dry mixing a conventional alloyed zinc powder with a powder of Bi.

B5  
14. (Amended) The negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the bismuth is added in an amount of 500 to 1000 ppm.

Please cancel claim 13, without prejudice.